

Blanchard, Deborah

From: Marguerite <margtucker@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 6:44 AM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Bill 5469

Members of the Judiciary Committee,

In response to this past September's illegal killing of the black bears in Wilton, CT I would like to express my concerns for the lack of penalties in bear hunting.

The individual who pled guilty to the murders of these juvenile black bears received "accelerated rehabilitation" as his punishment. What is that exactly? Frankly, it does not sound like much.

The state of CT estimates that there are roughly 800 black bears in the Nutmeg State. That is not true. Are you aware that each sighting that is reported to DEEP represents one bear. So if I were lucky enough to see a bear in my woods, now my neighbors see that same bear and the people down the street from them see that same bear and we all report it to DEEP, do you know how many bears that one bear would equal in the books? THREE! So how many bear sightings reported to DEEP are actually the same bear? No one knows, no one seems to care. The math simply does not add up.

Black bears in Connecticut need to be protected. These are animals striving to survive. There has not been one incident of a human/black bear conflict in CT. These animals are an absolute treasure. No one should have the right to hunt these beings. They are thinking animals - some scientists have compared the black bears level of nurture and caring to that of a human mother. How can we permit that from being taken away? We need to protect and preserve the little black bear population that CT still has.

Please re-think the penalties. Have stiffer fines. Have stiffer punishments. Don't give these predator humans any reason to take another black bear's life. It simply is not right. A mere slap on the wrist will not prevent more triggers from being pulled.

I thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
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Sent from my iPhone